Deployment of Central Forces in Terai Region of U.P.

*39. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Terai region in Uttar Pradesh has been affected by terrorism resulting in deployment of forces by Central Government ;

(b) if so, the number of companies of para military and Central Forces deployed in the State and the areas of deployment ;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints about excesses being committed by police on the innocent citizens in the name of curbing terrorism in the Terai region ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government have conducted any inquiry into such excesses; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (d) It is a fact that the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh has been affected by terrorist activities. Consequently, the Central Government agreed to the request of the State Government for making available paramilitary forces for appropriate deployment in the affected area and in this connection 25 coys of BSF had been palced at the disposal of the State Government. Though, no specific complaint has been received about the excesses being committed by the police on innocent Sikh citizens in the name of curbing terrorism in the region, yet on a mention made by the Hon'ble Members in this House on the subject, the matter was referred to the State Government. They have stated that no excesses are being committed on innocent Sikh citizens. The State Government have been requested to ensure that there is no miscarriage of justice and no unnecessary hardship caused.

Gas-based projects

*40. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned Rs. 7500 crores for the gas-based projects ; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) what is the funding sources of Rs. 7500 crores for the projects;

(c) what is the component from the ONGC recourses ; and

(d) whether the sanctioned amount of Rs. 7500 crores projects includes Pipavav Power Projects gas pipe-line of Rs. 800 crores for supply of gas from Tapti fields ; if not, what are the reasons therefor ; and by when this pipeline is likely to be constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARA NAND): (a) to (c) Perhaps the question refers to the Gas Flaring Reduction project of ONGC, in which the investiment required is of the order of Rs. 7500 crores. The project would be funded by ONGC's own resources, to the extent of Rs. 2860 crores approximately. World Bank has sanctioned a loan of US$ 450 million for the projec and it has also been posed to ADB and Japan Exim Bank for cofinancing.

(d) No, Sir. Development of the Tapti field is not a part of the Gas Flaring Reduction Project.

Pollution of Yamuna River by Najafgarh Drain

194. SHRI VIREN J SHAH : Wil the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Yamuna river is being highly polluted by Najafgarh drain on account of the sullage discharged by the industries alongt he drain ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or porpose to take to ensure sullage free discharge into the river Yamuna for ensuring better quality of river water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A number of industries are discharging effleuents in the Najafgarh drain. In additionits, domestic sewage from its catchment area is also being discharged into the drain. All the major and medium scale industries have set up effluent treatment plants and pollution of the drain by their discharge has been minimised. Efforts are being made to induce the polluting small scale industries, particularly those of electroplanting and dyeing, to set up effluent treatment plants to further minimise the pollution of the Najafgarh drain. A plan for trapping the sewage

discharging into the Najafgarh drain, extension of the sewrage system and pollution abatement of river Yamuna has been drawn up by the Delhi Administration. Out of the 38 drains outfalling into the Najafgarh drain, dry weather discharge of 31 drains has been traped and action is being taken to trap the remaining 7 drains in a phased manner. Another scheme has been drawn up to extend the sewrage system from the present level of about 60% to 80%. In addition, a scheme for pollution abatement of river Yaumna has been formulated which includes pollution abatement of Najafgarh drain also in the Delhi segment. These schemes are expected to be implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

Area of waste Lands in the Country

195. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of Waste lands in the country Statewise;

(b) whether Waste lands is increasing rapidly;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme for development of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A country-wise survey on State-by-State basis of the extent of wastelands and the rate at which these are increasing or decreasing has not been carried out. However, according to one estimate, the State-wise area of wastelands is as given in the Statement (*See* below)

(d) The Wastelands Development Programme, initiated in 1985, aims at checking land degradation, putting wastelands to sustainable use, incresing bio-mass availability, esecially fuelwood and fodder, and restoring the ecological balance.

Statement

Estimates of wastelands in India

(Area in lakh hectares)

States/UT	Total
Andhra Pradesh	114.16
Assam	17.30
Bihar	54.58
Gujarat	78.36
Haryana	24.78
Himachal Pradesh	19.58
Jammu and Kashmir	15.65
Karnataka	91.65
Kerala	12.79
Madhya Pradehsh	201.42
Maharashtra	144.01
Manipur	14.38
Meghalaya	19.18
Nagaland	13.86
Orissa	63.84